

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

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NEA-06 PM-03 DODE-00 SP-01 AID-10 SR-02 DRC-01 PRS-01

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O R 101100Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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CONFIDENTIAL SECTION 1 OF 5 SAIGON 4634/1

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT APRIL 3-9,1974

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART I--SUMMARY.

1. QUANG NGAI REMAINED THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE IN MR 1. MINING ATTEMPTS INCREASED IN QUANG NAM AND THUA THIEN PROVINCES. IN MR 2 CONCERN OVER COMMUNIST INTENTIONS IN KONTUM PROVINCE INCREASED AS A RESULT OF FIGHTING AND THE COORDINATED MOVEMENT OF A NUMBER OF NVA REGIMENTS IN THE VINCINITY OF KONTUM CITY. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 3, HOWEVER, REMAINED THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF COUNTRY WIDE ATTENTION WITH AT LEAST SOME INDICATIONS THAT THE HIGH POINT OF COMMUNIST PRESSURE IS YET TO COME. REGIONWIDE, BOTH GVN AND COMMUNIST CASUALTIES WERE UP AGAIN WITH NVA/VC LOSSES MORE THAN DOUBLING. IN MR 4 OVER-ALL ACTIVITY AGAIN DECREASED. DINH TUONG WAS THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE AS THE GVN INCREASED ITS SECURITY OPERATIONS AND THE COMMUNISTS CONTINUED TO REACT TO ONGOING GVN OPERATIONS IN THE COMMUNIST BASE AREA AT TRI PHAP. AT TRI PHAP THE GVN CONCLUDED THE PACIFICATION PHASE OF ITS MILITARY EFFORTS AND BEGAN TO CONSOLIDATE ITS CONTROL THROUGH OUTPOST CONSTRUCTION AND PREPARATION FOR PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT. COMMUNIST ACTIVITY CONTINUED AT A HIGH LEVEL IN KIEN GIANG. DURING THE WEEK, EIGHT GVN OBS WERE ABANDONED UNDER PRESSURE, BRINGING THE TOTAL OF OBS LOST IN KIEN GIANG SINCE JANUARY 1 TO 58 WITH ONLY SIXTEEN REOCCUPIED OR RELOCATED. THE LOSS OF OBS IS SUGGESTIVE OF THE PROVINCE AND THE 21ST ARVN DIVISION'S LACK OF SUCCESS IN COPING WITH THE VC/NVA MAIN FORCE UNITS THAT ENTERED THE PROVINCE IN FEBRUARY. IN THE ICCS, THE DRV OFFICIALLY DECLINED TO PAY ITS SHARE OF THE ICCS BUDGET FOR THE ICCS' FISCAL YEAR JUST ENDING, FURTHER WEAKENING THE ICCS' ALREADY PRECARIOUS FINANCES.

PART II--ICCS

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2. THE ICCS PLENARY ON APRIL 8 DECIDED TO TAKE UP THE CAI LAY INVESTIGATION AGAIN AND REMANDED IT TO THE ICCS MILITARY COMMITTEE. THE HUNGARIAN AND POLISH DELEGATIONS HAVE BEEN INFORMALLY SPREADING THE THEORY THAT THE EXPLOSION AT CAI LAY WAS A GVN MINE RATHER THAN A COMMUNIST MORTAR SHELL. THE GVN SPOKESMAN HAS PUBLICLY ATTACKED THE HUNGARIAN AND POLISH DELEGATIONS ON THIS ISSUE. WITH THE INDONESIAN DELEGATION HAVING,

AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, GIVEN UP ITS OBJECTIONS TO ICCS INSISTVENCE  
ON TWO-PARTY SAFETY GUARANTEES AND TWO-PARTY LIAISON OFFICERS  
AS A CONDITION FOR INVESTIGATIONS, THE ICCS PLENARY HAS INSTRUCTED  
ITS MILITARY COMMITTEE TO RESUME BACKLOGGED INVESTIGATIONS  
STARTING WITH OCTOBER 1,1973.

3. ICCS FINANCES, ALREADY AT A LOW POINT AS THE ICCS USES ITS  
LAST GVN CHECK TO PAY OFF CREDITORS, WERE DEALT ANOTHER BLOW  
BY A NORTH VIETNAMESE NOTE DECLINING TO MAKE ITS CONTRIBUTION  
TO THE \$28.4 MILLION BUDGET FOR THE ICCS FISCAL YEAR JUST ENDED,  
ON GROUNDS THAT FIGURE IS TOO HIGH AND US HAS NOT CONTRIBUTED TO THE  
RECONSTRUCTION OF THE DRV.

PART III-- MR 1

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS THERE WERE 71 CEASEFIRE  
VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK, A DAILY AVERAGE OF 10, AND A SLIGHT  
DECREASE FROM THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S TOTAL OF 80. GVN  
CASUALTIES: 51 KIA; 175 WIA. NVA/VC LOSSES: 86 KIA; 4  
RETURNEES.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

THERE WERE NO INCIDENTS IN QUANG TRI. IN THUA THIEN,  
ALTHOUGH THE OVERALL LEVEL OF ACTIVITY REMAINED LOW, THERE WAS  
SOME INCREASE IN ENEMY ATTACKS BY FIRE. FIVE TIMES DURING THE  
WEEK THE ENEMY MINED THE RAILROAD BETWEEN DANANG AND HUE.  
ALMOST ALL OF THE MINES WERE REMOVED BEFORE THEY EXPLODED AND  
THERE WAS LITTLE INTERRUPTION OF SERVICE, BUT ON APRIL 7  
THE ENEMY EXPLODED MINES ON TWO SMALL BRIDGES, ONE ON QL 1  
AND ONE RAILROAD BRIDGE. TRAFFIC WAS BLOCKED FOR A SHORT TIME.  
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NEA-06 PM-03 DODE-00 SP-01 AID-10 SR-02 DRC-01 PRS-01

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O R 101100Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3563

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

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CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 5 SAIGON 4634/2

LIMDIS

3. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN ENEMY MINE EXPLOSIONS  
(A TOTAL OF 29). OTHER MILITARY ACTIVITY WAS LIGHT, BUT THE

DISTRICT CHIEF OF HUONG THUY DISTRICT IN THUA THIEN VISITING HIS NATIVE HAMLET IN QUANG NAM WAS AMBUSHED ON QL 1 AT 1320, 13 KILOMETERS SOUTH OF DANANG. HE AND A CHILD WERE KILLED; HIS WIFE AND DRIVER WOUNDED. ON APRIL 5 THREE VIET CONG IN ARVN UNIFORMS ENTERED THE HOA YEN RESETTLEMENT CENTER IN DAI LOC DISTRICT AND KILLED 4 AND WOUNDED 2.

4. IN QUANG TIN THERE WAS LITTLE ACTIVITY. ALTHOUGH THE LEVEL OF HOSTILITIES IN QUANG NGAI DECREASED SOMEWHAT, IT STILL REMAINED THE MOST ACTIVE IN I CORPS. IN DUC PHO DISTRICT A MINE CLAIMED THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF A BATTALION OF THE 2ND DIVISION ENGAGED IN THE PACIFICATION CAMPAIGN; THE PHO CHAU VILLAGE CHIEF WAS ASSASSINATED; AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE ON THE LIFE OF A DEPUTY HAMLET CHIEF; AND THE PHO BINH VILLAGE POLICE STATION WAS BLOWN UP. IN MO DUC AN ATTEMPT WAS ALSO MADE ON THE LIFE OF A DEPUTY HAMLET CHIEF.

5. ICCS:

THERE WAS NO ICCS ACTIVITY IN EITHER REGION I OR REGION II.

PART IV MR 11

1. STATISTICAL SUMMARY: MILITARY ACTIVITY INCREASED IN VOLUME AND INTENSITY DURING THE WEEK. THERE WERE 143 INCIDENTS REPORTED THROUGHOUT THE MR, UP FROM 116 LAST WEEK. THE HEAVIEST FIGHTING OCCURRED IN KONTUM ON APRIL 2, RESULTING IN HEAVY CASUALTIES. QL-14, WHICH IS THE ONLY LAND-LINK BETWEEN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE, IN MR III, AND THE OUTSIDE WORLD, WAS REPORTED REOPENED ON APRIL 7. BINH DINH PROVINCE REPORTED THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WITH 49. PLEIKU AND KONTUM HAD 28 AND 26 RESPECTIVELY. INCIDENTS ALSO OCCURRED IN QUANG DUC (19), PHU YEN (14), TUYEN DUC (5),  
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BINH THUAN (4), DARLAC (2), KHANH HOA (2), NINH THUAN (2), AND PHU BON (1). REPORTED RVNAF CASUALTIES WERE 29 KIA, 117 WIA AND 22 MIA, BUT THESE FIGURES DO NOT INCLUDE FULL REPORTING ON THE KONTUM ACTION. LAST WEEK'S REPORT CARRIED 64 KIA, 98 WIA AND 1 MIA. COMMUNIST LOSSES INCREASED FROM 202 KIA AND 3 CAPTURED TO 247 KIA AND 7 CAPTURED. AIR STRIKES WERE REPORTED IN BINH DINH (129), PLEIKU (99), KONTUM (97), QUANG DUC (18) AND BINH THUAN (6).

2. KONTUM/PLEIKU: THE 280TH RF BATTALION, OPERATING NE OF KONTUM CITY CAME UNDER HEAVY FIRE ON APRIL 2, ELIMINATING IT AS AN ORGANIZED UNIT. OF ITS PRESENT FOR DUTY STRENGTH OF 272, OVER 200 WERE INITIALLY CARRIED AS MIA. MOST OF THESE ARE EXPECTED TO TURN UP EVENTUALLY. THE 280TH HAD BEEN ON HIGH GROUND NEAR THE VO DINH-KON BRAIH ROAD AND HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR DIRECTING ARTILLERY AGAINST COMMUNIST MOVEMENTS ALONG THE ROAD. FOLLOWING

THIS ACTION, THE 23RD RANGER GROUP WAS RUSHED TO THE AREA FROM PLEIKU. OBSERVATION OF THE ROAD IS NOW LIMITED TO LOW-FLYING L19'S. IN PLEIKU PROVINCE, THE COMMUNISTS STRENGTHENED THEIR POSITIONS NEAR THE CAPITAL BY DEPLOYING THE REAR SERVICE ELEMENT OF THE 320TH DIVISION AND THE 48TH AND 64TH REGIMENTS TO AN AREA SOME 16 TO 20 KM WEST OF THE CITY. AMBUSHES ON QL-19 DECLINED TO SEVEN DURING THE WEEK, BUT INCLUDED AN AMBUSH OF A 45 TRUCK CONVOY. THE THANH AN DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS WAS MORTARED AT 1130 HOURS ON APRIL 2, RESULTING IN MINOR DAMAGE TO THE COMPOUND AND 50 PERCENT DESTRUCTION OF THE DISTRICT CHIEF'S HOUSE. THERE WERE NO SERIOUS CASUALTIES.

3. BINH DINH/PHU YEN: THE NORTHERN DISTRICTS SAW AN INCREASE OF ACTIVITY OVER A WEEK AGO, BUT THE INCIDENTS WERE SIMILAR IN NATURE, MOSTLY MINOR MORTAR ATTACKS AND BOOBY TRAP INCIDENTS. THERE WERE TWO ASSASSINATIONS OF GVN OFFICIALS, A DEPUTY HAMLET CHIEF FOR SECURITY WAS KILLED IN BINH KHE DISTRICT AND A HAMLET CHIEF WAS LOST IN PHU CAT DISTRICT, WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN 4 HAMLET OFFICIALS KILLED IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS. THE COMMUNISTS IN THE AN LAO VALLEY WERE SUBJECTED TO HEAVY BOMBING ON APRIL 7 AS THE GVN HAD WHAT IT CONSIDERED HARD INTELLIGENCE CONCERNING STAGING AREAS FOR THE IMMINENT DEPLOYMENT OF THE 12TH NVA REGIMENT TO THE VICINITY OF AN KHE, FROM WHERE IT WOULD ATTEMPT TO INTERDICT QL-19. THE SITUATION IN PHU YEN PROVINCE REMAINS UNCHANGED FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS; CONTACTS ARE LIGHT. THEY RESULT CONFIDENTIAL

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FROM GOVERNMENT INITIATIVES, PARTICULARLY IN TUY AN DISTRICT. CACHES DISCOVERED INDICATE THAT THE COMMUNISTS HAVE SUCCEEDED IN COLLECTING LARGE QUANTITIES OF FOODSTUFFS AND OTHER SUPPLIES.

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ACTION EA-13

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NEA-06 PM-03 DODE-00 SP-01 AID-10 SR-02 DRC-01 PRS-01

/086 W

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O R 101100Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3571

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER

COMUSMACTHAI

DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR

USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

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LIMDIS

4. QUANG DUC: THE 23RD DIVISION'S 45TH REGIMENT DEPLOYED FROM BAN ME THUOT TO NORTHERN QUANG DUC ON APRIL 4 AND IS NOW ATTEMPTING TO CLEAR THE COMMUNISTS OUT OF THE AREA AROUND BU PRANG/BU BONG, WHICH THEY CAPTURED LAST YEAR. ON THE MORNING OF APRIL 8 THE MR COMMANDER SAID THAT QL-14, RUNNING FROM KIEN DUC DISTRICT TO PHUOC LONG PROVINCE, IN MR III, HAD BEEN REOPENED. REPORTS FROM QUANG DUC ARE LESS CLEAR AND ON APRIL 7 THE ROAD WAS REPORTED OPEN TO CIVILIAN TRAFFIC ON THE CONDITION THAT A VEHICLE TAX BE PAID THE COMMUNISTS. THE PROVINCE CHIEF HAS SINCE INFORMED THE

PROV REP THAT IT IS NOW CLEAR OF COMMUNISTS, BUT THE PROV REP HAS BEEN UNABLE TO VERIFY.

5. OTHER AREAS: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE REST OF THE MR WAS LIGHT.

6. ICCS: THE INDONESIANS HAVE RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS FROM SAIGON TO CONTINUE THEIR PAST ACTIVITIES DESPITE A FORMAL COMPLAINT BY THE PRG ABOUT THEIR UNILATERAL OBSERVATIONS. WHILE IN SAIGON, THE INDONESIAN CHIEF DELEGATE WAS INFORMED OF THE IMPENDING ARRIVAL OF AN INSPECTION TEAM FROM SAIGON TO LOOK INTO THE SECURITY OF THE VARIOUS SITES. AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE INDONESIANS ADVISED THAT THE TRACK-MOUNTED ANTI-AIRCRAFT GUNS BE TEMPORARILY MOVED FROM THE PERIMETER OF THE PLEIKU SITE, AS THEY HAVE BEEN THE BASIS FOR COMPLAINTS BY THE COMMUNISTS, WHO INSIST IT PROVIDES A MILITARY TARGET AND THEREFORE INCREASES ICCS VULNERABILITY.

PART V MR III

1. MILITARY ACTIVITY IN MR 3 CONTINUED AT A HIGH LEVEL THROUGHOUT THE WEEK WITH INDICATIONS THAT THE HIGH POINT OF COMMUNIST PRESSURE IS YET TO COME. THE NVA 9TH DIVISION MOVED MORE OF ITS COMBAT ELEMENTS TOWARD THE BINH DUONG/TAY NINH/HAU NGHIA TRI-BORDER AREA MAINTAINING A MAJOR THREAT IN NORTHERN HAU NGHIA. THE NVA OBJECTIVE IN THIS AREA APPEARS TO BE AT THE MINIMUM ELIMINATION OF GVN OUT-POSTS NORTH OF THE CU CHI/TRANG BANG AREA, AND POSSIBLY TO DRIVE ON CONFIDENTIAL

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TRYING TO CUT HIGHWAY 1 AND ISOLATE TAY NINH PROVINCE. THE 5TH NVA DIV MAINTAINS ITS THREAT TO DUC HUE FROM THE PARROT'S BEAK OF CAMBODIA, LATE INFORMATION INDICATING THE POSSIBLE PRESENCE THERE OF ARMOR AND OF THE 275TH REGIMENT AS WELL AS THE 174TH AND E-6 REGIMENTS OF THE DIVISION. MR 3 HQS IS ALSO CLOSELY WATCHING HIGHWAY 22 NORTH OF TAY NINH CITY WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF A POSSIBLE NEW CONCENTRATION OF ENEMY TANK AND INFANTRY FORCES, AS WELL AS DON XOAI IN SOUTHERN PHUOC LONG PROVINCE WHICH APPEARS TO BE MENACED FROM THE WEST BY THE 141 NVA REGIMENT AFTER COMMUNIST FORCES OVERRAN THE GVN OUTPOST AT CHI LINH BRIDGE ON THE PHUOC LONG/BINH LONG BORDER. THE SITUATION APPEARS STABILIZED FOR THE MOMENT IN NORTHERN PHUOC TUY PROVINCE AFTER THE ARVN SUFFERED A SETBACK ON ROUTE 2 NEAR THE LONG KHANH BORDER WHERE GVN DEFENDERS WERE PUSHED OUT OF TWO OUTPOSTS. THE CORPS COMMANDER HAS KEPT HIS HEAVIEST CONCENTRATION OF FORCES IN NORTHERN HAU NGHIA AND REMAINS CONFIDENT THAT HE CAN THWART ANY COMMUNIST ATTEMPT TO CUT ROUTE 1 AND ISOLATE TAY NINH.

2. IN THE 24 HOURS ENDING 0800 APRIL 9, THERE WERE 49 INCIDENTS COMPARED WITH 34 AND 66 IN THE PRECEDING TWO 24-HOUR PERIODS. COMMUNIST GUNNERS HAMMERED AWAY AT DUC HUE RANGER CAMP ON APRIL 8

WITH 50 ROUNDS OF 105MM HOWITZER. TO THE NORTHEAST IN TRANG BANG DISTRICT, THE 328TH RF BATTALION RECEIVED OVER 70 MIXED ROUNDS WITH NO REPORTED LOSSES. OVER 100 ROUNDS OF MIXED ROCKET AND MORTAR FIRE WERE POURED INTO THE TONLE CHAM RANGER CAMP ON APRIL 8 TO CONCLUDE A WEEK OF SUSTAINED HARASSMENT IN WHICH NVA/VC REPORTEDLY CONSTRUCTED ADDITIONAL TUNNEL SYSTEMS TOWARD THE ARVN DEFENSE POSITIONS. THERE WERE THREE SEPARATE ABDUCTION INCIDENTS IN THE TRI TAM AREA.

3. THE WEEK WITNESSED 366 MILITARY INCIDENTS IN MR 3, A SLIGHT DECLINE FROM LAST WEEK'S RECORD 377. THERE WERE 174 ATTACKS BY FIRE, 82 GROUND CONTACTS, AND 8 COMBINED ABF AND GROUND INCIDENTS. MININGS (56) REMAINED RELATIVELY CONSTANT. COMMUNIST ARTILLERY TOTALLED 2,297 ROUNDS WHILE RVNAF FIRED 20,252 (4,597) ROUNDS MORE THAN THE PREVIOUS WEEK). VNAF FLEW 334 SORTIES (220 IN THE PREVIOUS WEEK), MOST AGAINST TARGETS IN HAU NGHIA, BINH LONG, AND PHUOC TUY. BOTH GVN AND NVA/VC CASUALTIES WERE AGAIN UP, COMMUNIST LOSSES MORE THAN DOUBLING. LOSSES FOR THE GVN WERE 151 KIA, 460 WIA AND 69 MIA (137 KIA, 384 WOUNDED AND 40 MIA IN THE LAST REPORT). NVA/VC LOSSES WERE RECORDED AS 409 KIA, 9 CIA, AND 4 CONFIDENTIAL

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RALLIERS (199 KIA, 2 CIA, 9 RALLIERS A WEEK EARLIER).

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 EUR-10 L-02 DPW-01 IO-03

NEA-06 PM-03 DODE-00 SR-01 AID-10 DRC-01 PRS-01 /084 W

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O R 101100Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3572

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST  
AMCONSUL CAN THO  
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA  
AMCONSUL DANANG  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
USDEL JEC PARIS UNN  
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG  
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH  
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE  
AMEMBASSY WARSAW  
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON  
USLO PEKING  
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI  
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI  
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI  
CG FMFPAC  
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE  
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER  
COMUSMACTHAI  
DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR  
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 4 OF 5 SAIGON 4634/4

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LIMDIS

4. THE 141ST NVA REGIMENT OVERRAN THE CHI LINH OUTPOST, BINH LONG PROVINCE, MANNED BY THE 215TH RF CO AND 322ND ARTILLERY PLATOON. OF THE 128 RF TROOPS STATIONED AT THIS POSITION, SOME 30 HAVE REACHED FRIENDLY UNITS BY THE CLOSE OF THE REPORTING PERIOD. OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT REPORTED 80 NVA KILLED AT CHI LINH AS A RESULT OF VNAF STRIKES AGAINST THE OUTPOST AFTER ITS FALL. THE LOSS OF THIS SITE WILL HURT THE GVN PSYCHOLOGICALLY, AND ALSO HAS TACTICAL SIGNIFICANCE PERMITTING GREATER NVA/VC PRESSURE AGAINST GVN FORCES TO THE WEST IN DONG XOAI, PHUOC LONG PROVINCE.

5. IN DUC THANH DISTRICT, PHUOC TUY, ON APRIL 6, NVA FORCES PUSHED RF TROOPS OUT OF TWO OUTPOSTS AT CAN MY AND XA BANG ALONG ROUTE 2. ONE UNIT, ABANDONING THE CAN MY POSITION, WAS CAUGHT BY AN ENEMY AMBUSH RESULTING IN 19 WIA AND 21 MIA FOR THE RF. THE GVN FAIRED BETTER WHEN COMMUNISTS UNITS THE SAME DAY ATTACKED ELEMENTS OF THE 18TH DIVISION JUST NORTH OF DUC THANH DISTRICT TOWN INFILCTING NVA LOSSES OF 68 KIA COMPARED WITH ARVN CASUALTIES OF ONLY 4 KIA, 30 WIA AND 6 MIA.

6. THERE WAS A SUDDEN UPSURGE IN KIDNAPPING IN BINH DUONG PROVINCE DURING THE WEEK. JUST ONE KILOMETER SOUTH OF BEN CAT DISTRICT CAPITAL, A GROUP OF APPROXIMATELY 40 NVA/VC ABDUCTED 39 CIVILIANS, INCLUDING 6 FEMALE PSDF. IN TRI RTIXIBVVLSE FORCES SEIZED FOUR MEN AND SIX WOMEN IN ONE LOCATION AND EIGHT CHILDREN IN ANOTHER. AT ONE TRI TAM RUBBER PLANTATION 61 FEMALE PLANTATION WORKERS AND A TRUCK WERE ABDUCTED BY A COMMUNIST FORCE. NEAR CHA RAY GVN OUTPOST NW OF TRANG BANG IN HAU NGHIA, FAMILY MEMBERS EN ROUTE TO VISIT RF TROOPS WERE KIDNAPPED, GIVEN PROPAGANDA LECTURES, THEN RELEASED.

7. ICCS. THERE WERE LITTLE RESULTS, AS USUAL, FROM THE ICCS REGIONAL TEAM IN MR 3. INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN DELEGATION MADE ONE "OBSERVATION" AT TRANG BANG WHERE A TERRORIST HAD TOSSED A GRENADE DURING A RELGIOUS CEREMONY RESULTING IN EIGHT DEAD AND 18 WOUNDED. THE ICCS MILITARY COMMITTEE HAS NOTIFIED ICCS REGION V OF THE FACT-FINDING TEAM WHICH WILL VISIT LAM SON AND CU CHI ON APRIL 9 AND 11 TO DETERMINE "THE SAFETY CONDITIONS AT THESE ICCS LOCATIONS." INDODEL NOTED WITH REGRET THAT ORDERS SIGNED BY CONFIDENTIAL

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THE IRANIAN CHAIRMAN INCLUDED QUESTIONS ON POSITIONING AND FIRING OF ARVN MILITARY.

PART VI MR IV.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL ACTIVITY: MR4 REPORTS A FURTHER DECREASE IN ACTIVITY FROM 393 INCIDENTS LAST WEEK TO 321 THIS WEEK. DINH TUONG WAS THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE IN THE DELTA LARGELY BECAUSE OF INCREASED GVN SECURITY OPERATIONS, WHILE ACTIVITY IN KIEN GIANG DECREASED SLIGHTLY. INCIDENTS IN ALL CATEGORIES DECREASED WITH CORPS REPORTING 44 GROUND ATTACKS (68 LAST WEEK), 1 INFILTRATION (4) 197 ABFS (219), 67 HARASSMENTS (83) AND 14 TERRORIST INCIDENTS (15). GVN LOSSES DECLINED ACCORDINGLY TO 161 KIA (228 LAST WEEK), 758 WIA (820), 39 MIA (116) AND 1 CREW-SERVED (14) AND 98 INDIVIDUAL (294) WEAPONS LOST. CORPS CLAIMS 662 VC/NVA KIA (643 LAST WEEK), 9 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (20), AND 26 CREW-SERVED (18) AND 194 INDIVIDUAL (247) WEAPONS SEIZED. IMMEDIATE VC/NVA OBJECTIVES IN THE DELTA APPEAR TO BE UNCHANGED FROM LAST WEEK.

(B) TRI PHAP OPERATION: THE PACIFICATION PHASE OF THE TRI PHAP OPERATION WAS OFFICIALLY CONCLUDED AND THE CONSOLIDATION PHASE BEGAN ON APRIL 3. THE CONSOLIDATION PHASE WILL CONSIST OF OUTPOST CONSTRUCTION AND PREPARATION FOR PERMANENT RE-SETTLEMENT. THE 32ND RANGER BATTALION IS BEING WITHDRAWN FROM TRI PHAP FOR TRAINING AND THE 58TH AND 85TH BATTALIONS WILL BE WITHDRAWN BY APRIL 15, ONE MONTH AFTER THEIR INTRODUCTION INTO THE AREA, AS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED. THE LINE

BETWEEN THE 7TH AND 9TH DIVISION AO'S IN TRI PHAP HAS BEEN  
SHIFTED WESTWARD EXPANDING THE AO OF THE 7TH AND REDUCING  
THAT OF THE 9TH. GVN FORCES SEIZED 35 B-40 ROUNDS, 8-82MM  
MORTAR ROUNDS AND 1-82MM MORTAR SIGHT IN TRI PHAP THIS WEEK.

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 EUR-10 L-02 DPW-01 IO-03

NEA-06 PM-03 DODE-00 SP-01 AID-10 SR-02 DRC-01 PRS-01

/086 W

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O R 101100Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3573

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI

CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI

CG FMFPAC

CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB IMMEDIATE

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER  
COMUSMACTHAI  
DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR  
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON  
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(C) NORTHERN DELTA: ACTIVITY IN DINH TUONG, ALREADY HIGH, ROSE FURTHER. THOUGH THERE WERE FEWER GROUND ATTACKS, THE NUMBER OF CONTACTS INCREASED DUE TO INCREASED GVN SECURITY OPERATIONS AND CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES CLIMBED SHARPLY. INCIDENTS ON ROADS CONTINUED WITH FOUR MININGS OR ROADBLOCKS REPORTED. IN ONE OF THESE INCIDENTS, ROUTE 20 IN HAU THANH (V), CAI BE (D) WAS DAMAGED BY FOUR MINES AT A SPOT NEAR THE BRIDGE-MINING INCIDENTS REPORTED LAST WEEK CONTINUED HIGH LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN DINH TUONG SEEMS RELATED TO SUSTAINED COUNTER-PRESSURE TO TRI PHAP, ATTEMPT TO SECURE RICE FROM LATE HARVEST, AND EFFORT TO MAINTAIN INFILTRATION AND TRANSPORTATION LINES. KIEN PHONG PROVINCE REPORTS THAT THREE NVA Z-15 REGIMENT UNITS ARE LOCATED ALONG THE KIEN PHONG/DINH TUONG BORDER. THESE UNITS ARE REPORTED TO HAVE OVERRUN A NUMBER OF OB'S IN DINH TUONG AND ARE EXPECTED NEXT TO ATTACK OB'S IN MY AN AND KIEN VAN DISTRICTS OF KIEN PHONG. ONE HAMLET CHIEF WAS KILLED IN LONG HIEP VILLAGE, KIEN VAN (D) AND ANOTHER WOUNDED IN TAN THANH VILLAGE, HONG NGU (D). THIS IS THE FOURTH TIME IN THREE WEEKS THAT PSDF POSITIONS IN THE PROVINCE HAVE BEEN ATTACKED AND A HAMLET CHIEF EITHER KILLED OR WOUNDED. IN KIEN TUONG, MOST ACTIVITY OUTSIDE THE TRI PHAP AREA WAS IN THE FAR NORTH OF THE PROVINCE AND CONSISTED MAINLY OF HARASSMENTS AND ABFS. ONLY 9 ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS WERE REPORTED. IN CHAU DOC, THERE WAS SOME ACTIVITY IN THE EXTREME WEST, DIRECTED AGAINST THE 419 RF BATTALION. THIS UNIT WAS SHELLED SEVEN TIMES AND SUFFERED 5 WOUNDED. INCREASED PRESSURE AGAINST THE 419 RF MAY BE IN RESPONSE TO THEIR OPERATIONS IN AREA OF INFILTRATION ROUTE 1C. ACTIVITY IN KIEN HOA DROPPED SLIGHTLY FROM LAST WEEK WITH MINES AND BOOBY TRAPS THE PRINCIPAL REASON FOR GVN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN CASUALTIES. SINCE THE END OF THE RAINY SEASON THERE HAS BEEN A SHARP INCREASE IN MINE AND BOOBY-TRAP INCIDENTS AS GVN MILITARY AND CIVILIANS PUSH INTO NEW AREAS FOR OPERATIONS AND DEVELOPMENT. OUTPOST HARASSMENTS WERE THE LOWEST SINCE MID-FEBRUARY, CONSISTING MOSTLY OF THREE TO SEVEN M-79 ROUNDS. TWO SIGNIFICANT TERRORIST INCIDENTS OCCURRED. IN THE FIRST, THREE VC KILLED FOUR MEMBERS OF THE DISTRICT TEAM OF NEWLY-ESTABLISHED PHUOC HUNG DISTRICT. IN THE SECOND, A GRENADE

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WAS THROWN INTO A TEMPLE IN QUE THANH VILLAGE, HAM LONG DISTRICT IN THE EARLY MORNING OF MARCH 9 WHILE APPROXIMATELY 60 VILLAGERS WERE ATTENDING A RELIGIOUS CEREMONY. THREE CIVILIANS WERE KILLED AND 24 WOUNDED.

(D) VC MR3: KIEN GIANG REMAINED ACTIVE THOUGH INCIDENTS DECREASED SLIGHTLY FROM LAST WEEK. EIGHT OB'S WERE ABANDONED UNDER PRESSURE (2 IN KIEN BINH DISTRICT AND 6 IN KIEN AN DISTRICT). SINCE JANUARY 1, 58 OB'S IN KIEN GIANG HAVE BEEN LOST (6 ABANDONED, 39 ABANDONED UNDER PRESSURE, 13 OVERRUN) AND ONLY 16 HAVE SINCE BEEN REOCCUPIED OR RELOCATED. MOST OF THE OB'S HAD FEWER THAN 50 PERCENT PRESENT FOR DUTY AND OFFERED ONLY TOKEN RESISTANCE TO ATTACKING VC/NVA FORCES. THE OUTPOST SITUATION IS EVIDENCE OF PROVINCE AND 21ST ARVN DIVISION FORCES LACK OF SUCCESS IN COPING WITH THE VC/NVA MAIN FORCE UNITS THAT ENTERED THE PROVINCE IN FEBRUARY. IN CHUONG THIEN NUMBER OF INCIDENTS REPORTED REMAINED LOW BUT WERE HIGHLY CONCENTRATED. KIEN HUNG DISTRICT TOWN AND TWO OB'S ON THE CAI LON RIVER TOOK FREQUENT ABF FROM THURSDAY THROUGH THE WEEKEND. ENEMY ACTIVITY FOR THE PAST TWO WEEKS IN CHUONG THIEN HAS BEEN IN LOCAL FORCE AREAS WITH NVA/VC MAIN FORCE UNITS INACTIVE. AN XUYEN WAS RELATIVELY QUIET WITH NO GROUND ATTACKS. LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE REMAINED CONSTANT. ONE VILLAGE HEADQUARTERS, VINH HUNG, WAS SHELLED. AN HOA OB IN AN TRACH (V), GIA RAI (D) WAS SHELLED FOUR TIMES AND REMAINS THE FOCUS OF ENEMY ACTIVITY. VC BAC LIEU BATTALION I

IS KNOWN TO BE OPERATING TO THE SOUTH AND SOUTHEAST OF THIS OB. S-2 ALSO REPORTS THE APPEARANCE OF ELEMENTS OF WHAT MAY BE A SECOND BAC LIEU BATTALION (BAC LIEU BATTALION II ALSO KNOWN AS SONG HUONG BATTALION) OPERATING NORTHWEST OF VINH HUNG VILLAAGE HEADQUARTERS. NEIGHBORING BA XUEYN PROVINCE EXPERIENCED A FURTHER DECLINE IN ACTIVITY WITH NO SERIOUS ENGAGEMENTS REPORTED. HOA VAN (H), HOA MY (V), HOA TU (D) SUFFERED 11 ABFS AND ONE GROUND ATTACKS. THE SITUATION IN PHONG DINH PROVINCE REMAINS UNCHANGED. IN ONE TERRORIST INCIDENT A CHARGE EXPLODED IN A REFRESHMENT STAND KILLING ONE CIVILIAN AND WOUNDING ANOTHER. VINH BINH PROVINCE REPORTS DECREASED ACTIVITY AND ONLY ONE SIGNIFICANT CONTACT. TWO COMPANIES OF THE 470 RF BATTALION CONTACTED VC BATTALION-SIZED UNIT IN AN TRUONG (V), CAN LONG (D). ADDITIONAL GROUND TROOPS FROM THE 523 RF BATTALION WERE CALLED IN AS WELL AS ARTILLERY SUPPORT AND ONE HELICOPTER GUNSHIP. RESULTS WERE 3 RF KIA, 38 RF WIA, 1 RF MIA, 15 VC KIA AND 1 VC CIA.

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A HEADQUARTERS UNIT OF THE 7TH ARVN DIVISION HAS ESTABLISHED A COMMAND POST AT MY CAM (V), CANG LONG (D) WITH COMMAND OF 2 RF BATTALIONS IN VINH LONG AND 2 IN VINH BINH. SECTOR HAS ESTABLISHED 3 NEW OB'S ALONG ROUTE 26 IN TIEU CAN DISTRICT IN AN ATTEMPT TO

SEPARATE VC FORCES IN THE EASTERN AND WESTERN SECTIONS OF THE DISTRICT. IN VINH LONG, A GRENADE WAS THROWN INTO A PRIVATE HOME IN CAI SON (H), SONG PHU (V), BINH MINH (D) DURING THE CELEBRATION OF A DEATH ANNIVERSARY ATTENDED BY SEVERAL VILLAGE OFFICIALS AND GVN MILITARY PERSONNEL. TWELVE PEOPLE WERE WOUNDED. SA DEC REMAINED QUIET.

2. GVN AFFAIRS: THE DEMOCRACY PARTY HAS FORMED AN AN GIANG PROVINCE CHAPTER. CHAIRMAN AND VICE CHAIRMAN ARE RETIRED CIVIL SERVANTS WITH LITTLE POLITICAL FOLLOWING. LOCAL PARTY LEADERS ARE VILLAGE AND HAMLET CHIEFS WHO ARE ALSO LOCAL HOA HAO LEADERS AND WHO WILL PROBABLY REMAIN MORE LOYAL TO THE HOA HAO THAN TO THE DEMOCRACY PARTY.

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 10 APR 1974  
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**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** LIMDIS  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT APRIL 3-9,1974 CINCPAC FOR POLAD  
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**Type:** TE  
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